

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MARCH 13, 2008

## Mimi Noorani Seeks Insight Into the Importance of Play

by Rebecca Boggs

For nearly a decade, Mimi Noorani has observed the impact on human behavior of watching television and is now exploring the apparent inverse relationship between the amount of time children watch TV and the time they enjoy free play.

Noorani, who moved from California to the D.C. area in 1999, first used her B.A. in biophysics from Berkeley to work in anesthesiology at the University of San Francisco Medical Center.

"As I talked with patients at work, I thought there must be a better way to help people. So I eventually turned to public health and preventative medicine," Noorani says. But that was not the answer.

Soon after moving to D.C., Noorani looked again for a more direct way to help people with their lives. She tried volunteering for T.V.-Free America (now known as the Center of Screen-Time Awareness), which encourages families to turn off their televisions so they can lead healthier lives.

"The obesity issue is linked



Mimi Noorani

to watching too much television, as are many social and health problems," she said. Later, when Noorani was hired by T.V.-Free America, she spoke with parents concerned about what their children would do instead of watching television. In anticipation of Turn Off T.V. Week, Noorani says, "I remember speaking with a parent who said, 'When my son says he is bored, what do I do?' I said, 'If he gets bored he'll learn to be creative.'"

This mother later reported that her son "screamed for about 10 minutes and then went outside and played for three hours. He's never done that before."

As Noorani spoke with parents who were trying to wean their children from T.V., she says she began to sense that something more was needed.

Then Noorani had the good fortune to meet Joan Almon, a kindergarten teacher and current chair of the U.S. Alliance for Childhood, who was concerned about her students' increased levels of stress and health problems. She saw that these changes were happening as free play in many schools and in many homes was diminishing.

### Alliance Formed

Noorani recalls that Almon believed that teachers, doctors and other professionals needed to form an Alliance for Childhood. After a large organizational meeting in New York, Noorani began to work with Almon. The Alliance's first project was a critical assessment of the impact

See NOORANI, page 6

*In celebration of National Women's History Month, the News Review is publishing a series of four interviews to honor Greenbelt women of achievement.*

## School Reps Review Plans For a New Middle School

by Mary Moien

Representatives from the Prince George's County Public Schools met with the city's Advisory Planning Board and the Advisory Committee on Education on March 5 in the Greenbelt Community Center. The topic was Greenbelt Middle School and its future. This was the first meeting between the school system and the city on this topic since October. The entire city council was in the audience.

At the October meeting, the city council voted unanimously to support a new school using modified scheme D from the several designs that had been proposed. The new school, which will be completed for the 2010-2011 school year, will be a new free-standing building. Students will remain in the current building until the new one is completed. Once all are moved to the new school, the current building will be demolished with the exception of the historic section. The new school will be situated west of the current building along Breezewood Drive, north of the school bus lot.

Rupert McCave, Capital Im-

provement and Program officer, described how the building will be a "green" building. Plans are included to reduce water runoff from the site, reduce the amount of asphalt in the parking lots and provide an evergreen buffer between the school fields and the bus lot. A two-story school is planned to reduce the carbon footprint of the building. It was proposed that a follow-up meeting be held just to discuss the "green" aspects of the new school.

McCave stated that the proposal for the school is at the state level now for approval. The school system will be applying for permits individually and expects to have the permit to start grading the property this spring while working on construction documents during the same period. Groundbreaking for the building is expected for Spring 2009.

Questions arose about capacity. The new school is slated for 990 students and will contain grades six through eight.

See GMS PLANS, page 6

### Questions & Answers

Items of Concern Pertaining to the Greenbelt Middle School per letter of October 25, 2007

1. A public forum should be held to present the concept to the communities served by the Greenbelt Middle School.

Response: Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will schedule a public forum.

2. Safe pedestrian access to the proposed building by walkers from Berwyn Heights.

Response: Existing pathways from Greenbelt Road to the existing middle school will be extended to the new school.

3. Pedestrian connection between the proposed building and the remaining historic building.

Response: A pathway will be provided from the new building to the lower level of the existing gymnasium.

4. Plans for the athletic fields: The city has offered to partner with PGCPS on field maintenance and shared use.

See Q & A, page 6

## Want to Read the Greenbelt News Review Online?

The Greenbelt News Review has been printed continuously since 1937. Now the News Review wants to make Greenbelt news available online.

Tell us what you think and help us plan the online version of your community news. Anyone who has access to a computer can go to this web page and complete a brief survey: <http://iat.ubalt.edu/greenbelt>

Four participants will each win a \$50 Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket gift card as a thank you for completing the survey.

Thank you. Everyone's opinion is important.  
Greenbelt News Review

<http://iat.ubalt.edu/greenbelt>

## GNR Seeks to Enhance Online News Service

The University of Baltimore's Information Architecture graduate class is currently planning a new Greenbelt News Review (GNR) website.

To assist with the development of the new site the students will query members of the Greenbelt community via an online survey. The goal is to learn what kind of local news is of interest to readers and if local news is placed online will people read it? The survey is primarily geared toward planning the new website. It may also provide some insights for the printed paper but that is not the focus of this particular survey. In creating the electronic survey, the tool to be used by the class is SurveyMonkey.com, an industry standard for online surveys.

**Incentive**  
As an incentive to filling out the online survey, a \$50 gift

certificate from the Greenbelt Co-op will be awarded to each of four individuals selected at random from those who complete the survey and enter the contest.

To publicize the survey, the GNR will feature it here, on Greenbelt websites including the City of Greenbelt site and on email listservs. Flyers will be distributed around town listing the URL of the online survey. After people go to the web page and fill out the survey, SurveyMonkey will provide the students with reports on the accumulated data.

The survey will run for two weeks starting March 14.

The News Review hopes to have its website renovation completed before the end of the summer. In the meantime the city has generously been placing the current issue of the News Review on its website each week.

### What Goes On

**Monday, March 17**

8 p.m., Council Worksession with State Highway Administration, Municipal Building

**Wednesday, March 19**

7:30 p.m., Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), Community Center

**Saturday, March 22**

10 a.m., Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Buddy Attack Park

### Registration for Swim Lessons

**Monday March 17 and Tuesday, March 18**

Registration for Residents and Pass Holders

**Wednesday, March 19** – Open Registration until Filled

# Letters to the Editor

## THANKS!

Thank you, Greenbelt, for making a successful "Bikes for the World" collection! A grand total of 67 bikes of all sizes, a myriad of bicycle accessories and monetary donations were collected on March 1 at the Bauman-Branyan home. Most donors were Greenbelt residents with some people coming from nearby towns such as College Park, Glenn Dale and Bowie.

Without the help of wonderful volunteers, the event would not have been possible. Greenbelt helpers included Alan Turnbull with daughters Barbara and Kathryn, Bret Fishburne and son Silas, Raymond Peterson with kids Catherine and William, Neil McConlogue and son Liam and Jeff Travis. Two families from Friends Community School, the Lorente family and the Hamilton family, also spent several hours in the cold and wind helping to compact the bicycles for shipping. Several Greenbelters, with no bicycles to offer, gave generous financial donations to help defray the cost of shipping the bicycles to their destinations.

Keith Oberg, director of "Bikes for the World," came to train the volunteers and told us that this group of bicycles was most likely bound for Central America. Bicycles from other collections have been sent to countries in South America and Africa. Mountain and hybrid bikes have been found to be particularly useful as transportation in areas without paved roads.

The Bauman-Branyan family thanks the community for their generous support of our Bahá'í service project. In case you missed the event but still want to donate, another "Bikes for the World" collection will take place at REI in College Park on April 12 from noon to 4 p.m. Check [www.bikesfortheworld.org](http://www.bikesfortheworld.org) for details.

Roya Bauman and  
George Branyan

## THANKS!

Three cheers for the many generous and talented community



Signs directed participants to the used bicycle collection station that was set up in front of the Bauman-Branyan home.



Keith Oberg, director of Bikes for the World, shows Neil McConlogue how to compact a bike for shipping, as Roya Bauman looks on.

## NASA Urges Public To Name Satellite

NASA invites people from around the world to suggest a name for the cutting edge Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope observatory, otherwise known as GLAST, before it launches in mid-2008. The satellite will observe some of the most powerful forces known in the universe.

"The idea is to give people a chance to come up with a name that will fully engage the public in the GLAST mission," said Steve Ritz, the mission's project scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt.

"We hope someone will come up with a name that is catchy, easy to say and will help make the satellite and its mission a topic of dinner table and classroom discussion," said Alan Stern, associate administrator for Science at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The name may be an acronym. It should capture the excitement of the mission and call attention to gamma-ray and high-energy astronomy. Suggestions of a scientist's name may only include names of deceased scientists not already used for other NASA missions. All suggestions will be considered. The period for accepting names closes on March 31, 2008. Participants must include a statement of 25 words or less about why their suggestion would be a strong name for the mission. Multiple suggestions are encouraged.

To submit a suggestion, visit: <http://glast.sonoma.edu/glast-name>.

NASA's GLAST mission is an astrophysics and particle physics partnership, developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy, along with important contributions from academic institutions and partners in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden and the U.S.

For more information about the GLAST mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/glast>.

## Correction

The March Greenbriar meetings announced in the February 28 issue incorrectly identified those meetings — they are annual association meetings, which it is hoped all Greenbriar residents will attend. The News Review regrets the error.

## OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF MAR. 14

**The Other Boleyn Girl**  
(PG-13)  
FINAL WEEK!

Friday  
\*5, 7:30, 9:55

Saturday  
\*2:30, \*5, 7:30, 9:55

Sunday  
\*2:30, \*5, 7:30

Monday - Thursday  
\*5, 7:30

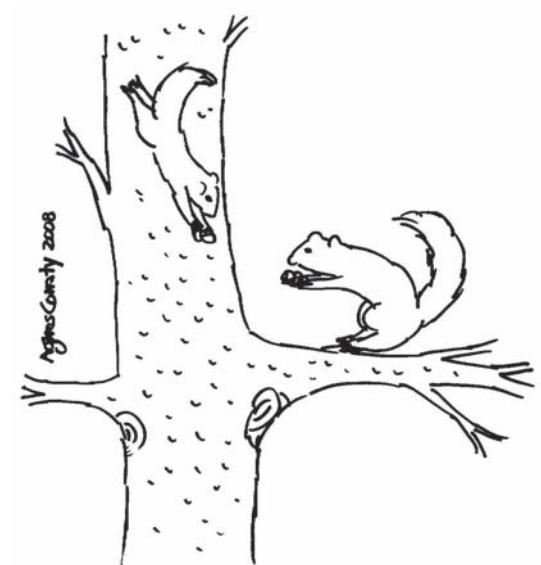
\*These shows at \$6.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745

129 Centerway

[www.pgtheatres.com](http://www.pgtheatres.com)

## Grin Belt



AGNES CONATY ©2008

"I could save these for college funds or for tomorrow's oil price hike . . ."

## Advocates Needed For Abused Youth

The office of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Prince George's County, Inc. is recruiting volunteers to advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children in the county. CASA gives training and supervision to volunteers who spend 10 hours a month getting to know the children. Volunteers also work with teachers, social workers and attorneys to ensure that the child's needs are addressed.

CASA/Prince George's County & Inc. is now accepting applications for day and evening training sessions. Bilingual volunteers are especially needed.

For details visit [www.pgcasa.org](http://www.pgcasa.org) or call 301-209-0491.

## School Bd. Meeting Is Rescheduled

The Prince George's County Board of Education announced that the March 12 Student Support and Family Services Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 18 at 5 p.m.

Call Margaret Thompson at 301-952-6117 for details.

## Julia Child Event Offered at Riversdale

At Riversdale Mansion on Tuesday, March 18 at 1:30 p.m., Mary Ann Jung will present a costumed living history presentation, "Julia Child: America's Favorite French Chef." Reservations are not required. Riversdale House Museum is located at 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

[newsreview@greenbelt.com](mailto:newsreview@greenbelt.com)

301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

President Emeritus, 1985-

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662

Assistant Editor: Barbara Likowski 301-474-8483

News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805

Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

### STAFF

Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, Rebecca Boggs, Judi Bordeaux, Jessi Britton, Sharon Carroll, Paula Clineinst, Agnes Conaty, Austin Conaty, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Pat Davis, A. Neil Deo, Carol Drees, Elizabeth Eny, Robin Everly, Chris Farago, Eli Flam, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Eve Gresser, Carol Griffith, Pat Hand, Stacy Hardy, Shirl Hayes, Solange Hess, Barbara Hopkins, Larry Hull, Kathie Jarva, Elizabeth Jay, Cathy Jones, Ginny Jones, Sharon Kenworthy, Suzanne Krofchik, Meta Lagerwerff, Pam Lambird, Sandra Lange, Greg Lawson, Susan Lesser, Eugenia Macarthy, Kathleen McFarland, Emma Mendoza, Sara Mintz, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Diane Oberg, Linda Paul, Leonie Penney, Eileen Peterson, Ann-Marie Saucier, Linda Siadys, Pearl Siegel, Brian St. George, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Joan Whelan, Thomas X. White, Marie Wong and Dea Zugby.

### CIRCULATION

Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624  
Springhill Lake: Karen Zoellner 301-474-1882

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Pat Davis, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Thomas X. White.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

# Community Events

## At the Library

### Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories:

Tuesday, March 18, 10:30 a.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months old with caregiver, limit 15 babies.

Wednesday, March 19, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddler time for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 children for each group.

Thursday, March 20, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 children.

Caregivers are asked to pick up a free ticket at the Children's Desk.

### Adults

Saturday, March 15, 2 to 4 p.m., Gardening Workshop: Composting and Rain Barrels. Master gardeners will share information and offer sound horticultural advice on spring garden topics.

Wednesday, March 19, 7 p.m.: A librarian will lead a book discussion of Larry McMurtry's "Telegraph Days."

## GHI Notes

### Scheduled Meetings:

**Tuesday, March 18**, 7:15 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room

**Wednesday, March 19**, 7 p.m., Finance Committee, Board Room

**Thursday, March 20**, 7 p.m., Sustainable Design and Practices Committee, Board Room

**Tuesday, March 25**, 8:30 a.m., Yard-Lines Committee, GHI Library

**Wednesday, March 26**, 7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee, GHI lobby

**Thursday, March 27**, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors, Board Room

Committee and board meetings are open to members who are encouraged to attend.

Note: The 2008 board meeting schedule has been changed to the second and fourth Thursdays through May.

**Smell Gas?  
(Sulfur or  
rotten eggs)**  
**Call Washington  
Gas Light  
800-752-7520  
or 911**

## Postal Services Available

Limited postal services are now available in the Municipal Building Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## FOR THE KIDS - Grades 1-6

Fun, Games, Prizes

Followed by Snacks and a Show

## FOR THE PARENTS

Coffee House while the kids play.

Relax with a cup of coffee, a snack, and the smooth sound of jazz.

Let US serve YOU!!

**FREE** March 15, 2008 6:00-8:30 **FREE**

Sponsored by Hope Fellowship and

Soul'd Out Youth Group

For More Information: (301)474-4499 x4

## Greenbrier Annual Meetings in March

The Greenbrier Community Association (GCA) has scheduled annual meetings on Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. for Phase III and on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. for GCA in the Greenbrier Commons Room. Annual meetings for Phase I and II were held on March 4 and 11 respectively. Meetings are held in Greenbrier's Terrace Room and are open to Greenbrier residents.

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

Congratulations to Florence Holly, who just celebrated her 99th birthday. She is a past president of the Golden Age Club and served on many committees and stayed active in the club for many years. She recently moved to Annapolis to live near her family. She will be with us for the anniversary luncheon on April 16. She's really a special person and an inspiration to all.

Dr. Stephani Trifoglio will speak on March 26. Her topic will be arthritis and she will answer questions.

Plans for the anniversary luncheon are moving along. The deadline to sign up is April 2. Everyone come and enjoy the excellent food at the 94th Aero Squadron and the entertainment we have planned.

Happy St. Paddy's Day to all and remember "A joy shared is a joy doubled."

## Disabilities Group Has Meeting Mar. 16

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Disabilities Connection will be on Sunday, March 16 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 103 at the Community Center. Come, join in for enlightenment and sociability. The group hopes to talk about travel, vacations and good places to go. Bring experiences, good or bad, to share. Everyone is welcome.

## BCWWG Meets Tuesday, Mar. 18

On Tuesday, March 18, the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG) will hold its monthly meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. in the media room at Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Road). There will be a lot to talk about including reports from some who went to several storm water management sessions, a macrvertebrate identification class, the meeting about the FDA's dumping of fish tank water into the Beaver Dam Creek and a workshop on reaching out to the community. The agenda will also include a discussion of upcoming events such as Earth Hour on March 29, the Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day on April 5, Earth Day on April 26, the next Reel and Meal at the New Deal, the Green Man Festival and Community Supported Agriculture subscriptions.

One BCWWG bylaw is to "have fun!" Come, find out how it's done and join in.

## Astronomical Star Parties March 15, 16

On Saturday, March 15 Astronomical Society members will hold a star party at Northway Field. A sidewalk Astronomy Party will be held on Sunday, March 16 at the Roosevelt Center near the New Deal Café.

Members of the society will begin to set up to view the moon and other celestial objects at approximately 7:30 p.m. In the event of rain or hopelessly cloudy skies the events will be cancelled without further notice.

Details are available at [www.greenbeltastro.org/events.shtml](http://www.greenbeltastro.org/events.shtml).

## Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10 - 4 p.m.  
1st Saturday of the month

10 - 2 p.m.

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!

Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

## Vigil Marks 5th War Anniversary

Wednesday, March 19 marks the 5th anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq. The Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition will hold a candlelight vigil from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in front of the Community Center.

Everyone is invited to join to stand in silence or to share thoughts about non-violence in the world today.

## Greenbrier Kids' Easter Event

Greenbrier will hold its children's Easter egg event on Saturday, March 22 at 10 a.m.

For more information call Assistant Community Manager Tiesha Eley at 301-441-1096.



## City's Egg Hunt Is on March 22

The Greenbelt Recreation Department will have its Annual Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22 promptly at 10 a.m. Children 18 months through sixth grade are invited to bring their basket and help Mister Bunny find the eggs he and his helpers have hidden. Mister Bunny will be visiting Buddy Attick Park (Greenbelt Lake).

In case of inclement weather, festivities will be held on Monday, March 24 at Buddy Attick Park. Call the weather hotline at 301-474-0646 the morning of the hunt for updated event status.

## Reel and Meal At the New Deal

The film "Peaceable Kingdom" will be shown at the New Deal Café on Monday, March 17 at 7 p.m. The Reel and Meal at the New Deal is a monthly film series that explores vital environmental and social issues and is sponsored by several Greenbelt organizations interested in preserving the environment. There is no charge for admission. At 6:30 p.m. an optional vegan buffet meal will be offered by volunteers to help raise funds for the café.

"Peaceable Kingdom" compares the brutality farm animals suffer on their way to becoming food with deeply touching stories of individual farm animals given a new lease on life at a rural sanctuary in upstate New York. Founded by husband and wife Gene and Lorri Bauston, Farm Sanctuary began when the young couple discovered a sheep abandoned, barely alive, on the dead animal pile behind a slaughterhouse.

What began with one rescued sheep eventually grew into a rambling refuge for hundreds of rescued farm animals and a spiritual haven for thousands of adults and children who visit there annually. Through director Jenny Stein's camera, we see these two solitudes come together in a peaceable kingdom of mutual love, joy, trust and forgiveness.

There will be a discussion following the film. Email Steve Kane at [sr.kane@verizon.net](mailto:sr.kane@verizon.net) for more information.

## Mediterranean Banquet

A Meet and Greet Benefit at the

## New Deal Café

Sunday, March 16, 5pm to closing

Welcoming Executive Chef Karim and Maria  
Featuring a sumptuous Mediterranean Feast

Music by Maria's Brazilian Friends

## New

## Deal



Tickets \$25; available in advance or at the door.

Proceeds benefit the Café through the  
Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA).

## Greenbelt Community Foundation

Greenbelt organizations are encouraged to submit proposals for grants to be awarded in July 2008.

The deadline for applications is  
**April 1st 2008**.

For more information: [www.greenbeltfoundation.net](http://www.greenbeltfoundation.net)

To request an application form email to:  
[info@greenbeltfoundation.net](mailto:info@greenbeltfoundation.net)

## Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club

will be holding registration for

## 2008 SOCCER season

on Wed., March 12 through

**Mon., March 31**

at the Greenbelt Youth Center

from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



There will be a U-14 co-ed team this year as well.



Our sympathy to Laura Mann of Ridge Road on the death of her father, Norman Mann, 69, of Gambrills, who died of a stroke on February 26, 2008.

From Oregon comes sad news of the death of the younger daughter of former Greenbelt Center School Principal John Van Schoonhoven and Louise Van Schoonhoven. Susan, 36, was in a fatal auto accident in New Mexico while returning to Oregon after a Florida visit to sister Heidi. Those wanting to send condolences can write: John and Louise Van Schoonhoven, Mountain Spring Acres, 61155 Love Road, Cove, OR 97824-8211.

Congratulations and thanks to Karen Haseley of the Recreation Department for suggesting and leading 33 seniors on the "New Mystery Tour" on March 10. The mystery destination turned out to be a double-header: two sites in downtown D.C. First there was a pre-opening tour of the wonderful new Newseum recently relocated from Virginia, including lunch at the Wolfgang Puck cafeteria. The second stop was Mme. Tussaud's Wax Museum a short distance away. Some interesting and amusing photos were taken at the Wax Museum.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jan Wolf who is recuperating from foot surgery.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We'd especially like to hear more from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Springhill Lake. To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

Kathleen McFarland

## Coupon Cutters Serve Military Families

A group of seniors meets every week in Greenbelt at the American Legion Post #136 to clip cents-off coupons. This group was featured on the front page of the Washington Post on Tuesday, March 11. The coupons are sorted and sent to families of troops serving overseas who often struggle to make ends meet on military salaries.

The women in the Greenbelt group chat among themselves about their current lives but also remember the contributions they made during World War II. This group sent almost half a million dollars in coupons last year to support servicemen currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the coupon clippers, Lila Sclawy, said, according to the story in the Post, that in addition to helping military families save money, "it shows them that somebody back home is thinking of them."

## Marietta Has Egg Hunt on March 24

Children ages 3 to 12 are invited to bring a basket and join the fun on the grounds of Marietta Mansion on Monday, March 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to search for Easter eggs. Entertainment and face painting will be included in this free program. Marietta Mansion is located at 5626 Bell Station Road in Glenn Dale.

In case of rain, the event will be held at Glenn Dale Community Center. For details call 301-352-8983, TTY 301-218-6768.

## View Botanic Quilts At Botanic Garden

"A Stitch in Vine" is the title of an exhibit on display through April 27 at the U.S. Botanic Garden. Artists from the Chesapeake and Potomac Applique Guild will show quilts with botanical themes. The Botanic Garden is located at 100 Maryland Avenue, S.W. in Washington, D.C.

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcome to our open, nurturing community



March 16, 10 a.m.

"America's Real Religion" and "The Faith Behind Freedom" by Jaco B. ten Hove, co-minister, with Don Henderson worship associate

— Barbara W. and Jaco B. ten Hove, co-ministers

## What is the Bahá'í Faith?



The youngest of the world's independent religions, it is based on the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), who is regarded by Bahá'ís as the most recent in a line of Messengers of God that includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Zoroaster, Christ and Muhammad.

### Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

Come visit our booth at the Labor Day Festival!  
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918  
[www.bci.org/greenbeltbahai](http://www.bci.org/greenbeltbahai) [www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)



## St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road  
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)  
301-262-3285 | [rector@stgeo.org](mailto:rector@stgeo.org) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

### Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday Service, March 16 at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service, March 20 at 7 p.m.  
Good Friday Service March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Please call the church office for additional information.  
The number is 301-262-3285

An inclusive congregation!



## Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM  
except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM

Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Conservative and Reconstructionist

## Learn About Islam

## GIVE THANKS

Every breath that we breathe is a blessing from God and we learn from the Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) to recognize these blessings each day. The Holy Qur'an tells us how he never forgot to be thankful to God. He is quoted to have said, "This is by the grace of my Lord, to test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful! And if any is grateful, it is (a gain) for his own soul; but if any is ungrateful, truly my Lord is free of all needs, supreme in honor." — The Holy Qur'an, 27:40

Count your blessings every day. For more information about gratefulness from an Islamic perspective, call 301-982-9463 or email [info@searchislam.org](mailto:info@searchislam.org) or visit [www.searchislam.org](http://www.searchislam.org).



## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

### 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open heart, Open minds, Open doors

[www.greenbeltmc.org](http://www.greenbeltmc.org) 301-474-9410

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Kim, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am

Prayer Meeting Sun. 10:00am

Saturday, March 22 – Lenten Prayer Vigil 10:00-11:00am



101 Greenhill Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School  
Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service  
Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd

## Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbelttucc.org](http://www.greenbelttucc.org)  
Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m.  
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111



Sunday

9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study

Palm Sunday, March 16

8:15 & 10:30 am Worship Service

(Blessing and Distribution of Palm Branches)

Holy Thursday, March 20

Services with Holy Communion at 12:15 & 7:30 pm

Good Friday, March 21

12:15 pm Passion Observance; 7:30 pm Service of Darkness

Easter Sunday, March 23

Special Festival Communion service at 10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt and reception following

Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail [myholycross@verizon.net](mailto:myholycross@verizon.net)



## Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning!!" Coffee and Snacks

10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship

Greenbelt Youth Center 99 Centerway

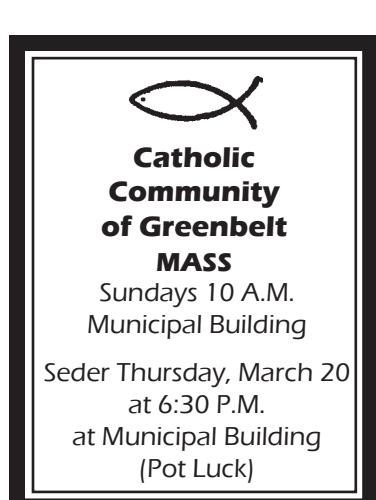
(Behind the Community Center)

March 16 – The Greatest Miracle: The Message of Evangelism  
John 3

Pastor Lou Redd

301-474-4499 410-340-8242 (cell)

...living life together



## Theatre Renovation to Commence This Year

by Vicki Kriz

The City of Greenbelt's Department of Planning and Community Development is preparing for renovations to the Old Greenbelt Theatre to begin this year in order to restore the historic charm of one of the only single-screen theaters left in the state. "The public seems excited about the idea of returning the theater to its historic look," Community Planner Amy Hofstra said.

Major restorations are planned for the theater's lobby area, including repairing the flooring, rebuilding the concession stand, installing light sconces reminiscent of the original lighting fixtures and renovating the ticket booth. A specialist has also been hired to help in returning the interior to its original color scheme.

Other improvements include updating the ventilation, electrical and plumbing systems. The restrooms will be made handicap-accessible. No changes will be made to the screen or sound system in the auditorium.

The Planning Department hopes the theater can experience high-quality renovations without disrupting the theater's business, Hofstra said. Although it is hoped the project will take no longer than three months to complete, the length of the closure is unknown.

Old Greenbelt Theatre's operator, Paul Sanchez, worries that a lengthy shut-down of the theater would result in significant financial losses. According to Sanchez, the theater is currently operating

at break-even, only bringing in \$1,500 in profit last year.

"A single screen theater can't make it," Sanchez said. "It's been a labor of love for me most of the time."

The Old Greenbelt Theatre first opened on September 21, 1938, playing "Little Miss Broadway" starring Shirley Temple, according to the theater's website. Sanchez began operating the theater in 1973 but sold it to his partner two years later. The theater closed in 1976 and was the location of the community arts center between 1980 and 1987.

Sanchez returned to the theater in 1990, remodeled and reequipped it and has since been operating it under his business, P & G Theatres, which operates five other theaters in Wheaton, Bethesda, Chestertown, Tappahannock, Va., and the Academy 8 Theaters in Greenbelt.

### Renovations

The City of Greenbelt proposed renovations to the theater after the city purchased it several years ago after hearing the previous owner was considering shutting it down.

Although Sanchez welcomes the restorations to the theater, he

is unsure of how effective they will be in attracting more business to the theater.

"I don't think [the increase in business] will be much. It might make a little difference," Sanchez said. "Greenbelt's problem is no one knows where it is."

Sanchez said that if the theater loses significant income in the coming year due to a shut-down, he may seek financial assistance from the city. "Everything's negotiable," he said.

"The city would like this to remain a successful business," Hofstra said. "I'm going to do whatever I can to help [Sanchez] to maintain his business."

The only major disruption to the theater would be during the time when work is being done to the heating, air conditioning and ventilation in the theater, Hofstra said. She hopes that strategically placed and elevated scaffolding could be used during this time period so that a minimal amount of auditorium seats would be disrupted.

The Planning Department is waiting for permits and cost estimates to be approved before opening the bidding to contractors.

A Review

## It Was a Packed House . . .

by John Drago

Well! It is Sunday morning and I have returned to the Café, the scene of last night's rollicking New Deal happenings. I am here this morning to change gears by relaxing to the sounds of Jim Stinson's Renaissance era lute playing while I "fix" the first draft of my account of Saturday night's March 1 entertainment. I have become a devoted camp follower of Jim Stinson's gift of serenity. His presence at the Café on Sundays is a testament to the variety of music offered. One day it is country music and the next its music to entertain King Henry VIII.

Variety, the spice of life!

Now I shall return to last night's performance by "The Don't Blame Us" band.

It was a packed house at the New Deal Café before the first note was even heard. Extra chairs were borrowed from the front room to accommodate the overflow. The audience must have known something. They

waited patiently for that first note while some technical difficulties were remedied. Their wait was rewarded — Mr. Hamilton and company didn't let them down.

To say they played country music would be an unfair oversimplification of the evening. We were served up a smorgasbord of different sounds within the genre of their chosen music.

Doing justice to these musicians' skill can perhaps best be done by describing the crowd's participation. They were clapping hands, tapping feet and singing along. Some were kind of dancing in their seats and a few just couldn't contain themselves and from time to time made some moves in the limited confines of the spaces between the tables.

To sum up the evening, let me just say the food and beverages flowed steadily and the only thing Mike Hamilton and the "Don't Blame Us" band can be blamed for is a fun time coupled with professional artistry.



# City Information

### MEETINGS FOR MARCH 17-21

Monday, March 17th, 8:00pm, **WORK SESSION -- STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**, at the Municipal Building.

Wednesday, March 19th, 7:30pm, **PRAB MEETING**, at the Community Center.

*This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call the number listed above, or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or kgallagher@greenbeltdmd.gov.*

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

**Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.**

**Vacancies exist on the:**

**Arts Advisory Board**

**Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee**

**Youth Advisory Committee**

**For more information, please call 301-474-8000.**

### GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER 2008 SPRING CHILDREN'S SWIM LESSONS

Tuesday, March 25th through Saturday, May 17th

Registration for Passholders & Residents:

March 17th & 18th

Open Registration: March 19th, until filled

### 2008 SPRING ADULT SWIM LESSONS

Tuesday, March 25th through Thursday, May 15th

Registration for Passholders & Residents:

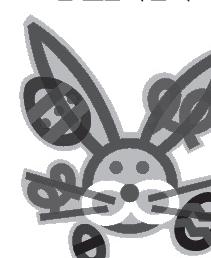
March 17th & 18th

Open Registration: March 19th, until filled

### ANNUAL EGG HUNT

**Saturday, March 22, 10:00am**

**Buddy Attick Park**



Bring your basket and help the Bunny find the eggs he and his helpers have hidden. Mister Bunny will visit Buddy Attick Park (Greenbelt Lake) and all egg hunters, ages 18 months through 6th grade, are invited to join him. The hunt will begin promptly at 10:00am. In case of inclement weather, festivities will be held on Monday, March 24, 2008 at Buddy Attick Park. Please call the weather hotline, 301-474-0646, the morning of the hunt for updated event status.



### Greenbelt Animal Control Pet of the Week

**Meet Cotton Blossom!**

Like the ethereal Lotus Blossom, our little Cotton Blossom is a delicate, exotic beauty. Desperate to be loved and held, Cotton is one of the most affectionate cats ever to enter our shelter. This little Silver Torbie with the unusual bottle-green eyes is a proven mouser. She must be placed as an only cat, as she is a carrier of Feline Rhinotracheitis. We are seeking a foster home for Cotton, while she waits for her forever home. For more information, call 301-474-6124.

## Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall  
Center Court  
301-220-1155

**ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.**

**ONLY \$5.50**

Children, Seniors \$5.50

Adults \$7.50

R = ID Required

(!) = No pass, No Discount Ticket

### Week of MARCH 14

#### FRI. - WED.

**Semi Pro, R**

12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 8, 10:20  
**Doomsday, R (!)**

12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:20

**College Road Trip, G (!)**

12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8, 10:15

**Horton Hears a Who, G (!)**

12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8, 10:15

**10,000 B.C., PG-13 (!)**

12, 2:30, 5, 7:35, 10:30

**Never Back Down, PG-13 (!)**

12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

**Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins, PG-13**

12, 2:30, 5, 7:35, 10:30

**Vantage Point, PG-13**

12:10, 2:40, 4:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

#### THUR.

**Semi Pro, R**

12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45

**Doomsday, R (!)**

12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30

**College Road Trip, G (!)**

12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 7:45

**Horton Hears a Who, G (!)**

12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 7:45

**10,000 B.C., PG-13 (!)**

12, 2:30, 5, 7:30

**Never Back Down, PG-13 (!)**

12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45

**Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins, PG-13**

12, 2:30, 5, 7:30

**Vantage Point, PG-13**

12:10, 2:40, 4:50

### CITY JOB OPENING-PARK RANGER I

\$8-\$10 per hour

The City of Greenbelt — Recreation Department will be accepting applications for the position of Park Ranger I. This is a part-time, seasonal position. Duties include patrolling city parks, special assignments from the Director of Recreation, and occasionally leading programs for the public. Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma or GED, college attendance desirable, some experience in park management, park maintenance management, park administration, recreation, natural sciences, public relations or related subjects; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Applications can be downloaded at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov). Applications should be returned to: City of Greenbelt, Attn: Personnel, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

**GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71**  
MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: Monday, March 17th at 8pm City Council Work Session (live), Tuesday, March 18th: 10am & 6pm "Ask the Expert -- Capital Hospice," 11am & 7:00pm: "Ask the Expert -- IRS Economic Stimulus Package."

PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday, March 19th at 7pm "My Health, My Medicare" DVD, 7:30pm "St. Mary's -- The Passion of Christ."

## Student Art Show Opens at New Deal



Maddy Henderson, right, discusses her digital painting "Arizona" with Peter May, left, president of the New Deal Café at the reception Sunday, March 9 for the New Deal Café's first student exhibit. Henderson is a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School who looks forward to attending art school in September. The exhibit runs through the month of March.

The art show program at the Café is sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Café Arts, with a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation. — photo by Barbara Simon

## Artful Afternoon's Reading Fun Includes Poetry Slam

by Mary Moien

The March Artful Afternoon on March 2 had several activities centered on Read Across America and celebrating the birthday of author Dr. Seuss. There was a Dr. Seuss character costume contest and a puppet-making workshop. But the poetry slam, co-sponsored by the ACE (Advisory Committee on Education) Reading Club, was a highlight of the afternoon. Mayor Judith Davis, in her "Cat in the Hat" red and white hat, first entertained the large group of parents and children by reading "her favorite" Dr. Seuss book – "Green Eggs and Ham."

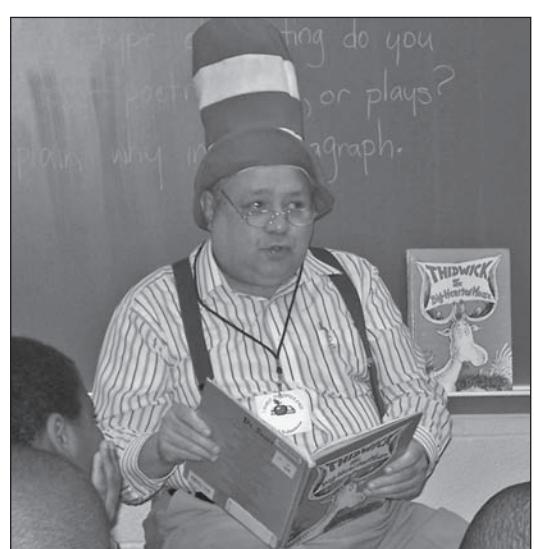
Then poet and award winning poetry slam artist Gayle Danley picked up the microphone and began the slam. Slam combines movement, voice, drama and the written word. Danley performed for the audience by talking about her childhood. She described another girl her age – Corsetta – and how her hair was "sooooo" smooth and her lips just so. She moved and gesticulated and the

audience could just picture this child from the poet's past.

Danley called up each of the youngsters who had signed up to read their own poems. She encouraged the audience to keep very still so that the child could be heard and then to applaud loudly both before and after each poem. After each poet read, Danley came forward to work with the student. Some she encouraged to practice reading much louder and slower. She showed them how to emphasize the words and gain the audience's attention. She encouraged them to move around. A few of the poets were quite poised.

The young poets and their parents and siblings were all very enthusiastic. Among the young poets was Daniel Oche, Greenbelt Elementary School, who had written a poem about his older brother David. Greenbelt Middle School student Brianna Harmon read her poem, "My Own Prison." Many of the students stayed to talk with Danley after the session, seeking her advice. Liz Murray, coordinator of the ACE Reading Club, congratulated each child and presented small prizes. She told them that they were very brave to read poems that "talked about what's in their hearts."

Danley ended the session by addressing the parents and the children. She said the parents must "show young people the power of words" and the children should "put the Nintendo down and write a poem with Daddy."



Last week, Greenbelt Elementary School also joined in the Read Across America activities. School volunteer tutor Barry Moien reads a Dr. Seuss book "Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose" to Ann-Marie Harris' fifth grade class.

## NOORANI

continued from page 1

of computers in classrooms.

"At that time there was no research supporting the idea that computers in classrooms would benefit learning. People got on the bandwagon to put classroom computers everywhere without thinking that there might be negative consequences," Noorani says.

"Then we (the Alliance) switched our focus to play – getting healthy play back into kindergarten instead of having a purely academic curriculum. Our focus was on "what is developmentally appropriate for children," Noorani continues.

She noted that the American Academy of Pediatrics in a 2007 clinical report, "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds," stated: "Play is essential to development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social and emotional well-being of children and youth. Play is so important to optimal child development that it has been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child."

Now a full-time mother of twins, Noorani directly supports free play and continues to build her knowledge of child development issues.

For more information about play and the importance it has in child development, visit [www.tvtturnoff.org](http://www.tvtturnoff.org) and [www.alliance-forchildhood.org](http://www.alliance-forchildhood.org). (Note that screenings for a new 55-minute PBS documentary titled "Where Do the Children Play?" are now available in the D.C. area.)

*Anyone who knows of a Greenbelt woman resident of accomplishment whose story is relatively unknown in Greenbelt may send a letter or an email to [newsreview@greenbelt.com](mailto:newsreview@greenbelt.com) with the details for next year's series. This series was coordinated by David Lange.*

## GMS PLANS continued from page 1

Before the recent budget cuts, there had been plans to transform some schools into kindergarten through eight but Greenbelt Middle had always been slated for six through eight. However, only Springhill Lake Elementary's sixth graders are at Greenbelt Middle right now, while it's possible that as many as five additional elementary schools might send their sixth graders to the new school.

Berwyn activist Ann Harris Davidson commented that the school is at 800 students with six elementary schools currently sending students to seventh grade at Greenbelt Middle. If all of those start sending their sixth graders, she questions the capacity. McCave said that he would send the city the official list of feeder schools. Lawrence Fryer, chief operating officer of the school system, commented at this time that, due to the budget cuts, the International Baccalaureate (IB) program was being put on hold at the school.

### Council Concerns

Immediately after the October meeting, Mayor Judith Davis had sent Fryer a list of 10 concerns. The school system had not responded to these concerns prior to this meeting. Fryer and Gene Delmar, architect, Delmar Associates, provided responses to some of the concerns. A number of the responses were an agreement by the school system that these issues still need to be addressed.

The full list of concerns and responses are found in a separate article in this issue. Currently no thought has been given to the future use of the historic building or to the outside architecture of the new building to mesh with the historic style.

## Q & A continued from page 1

Response: A shared use and maintenance agreement will be reviewed by PGCPS.

5. The city wishes to be involved in the discussions about the use of the historic portion of the existing school.

Response: A future agreement is certainly possible.

6. Student capacity: Likely use, potential growth, current Pre-K through 8 initiative and International Baccalaureate program.

Response: The new facility will be a middle school with a student capacity of 990 for grades 6, 7 and 8.

7. Buffering of the bus lot, both from Greenbelt Road and the various uses on the school site.

Response: Fencing and landscaping will be provided.

8. Reduce the number of

Other questions arose at this time. How is the new school laid out? Using a detailed drawing, Delmar reviewed the sections of the school. In general each grade has its own grouping of classrooms with sharing of some facilities. It was noted that the cafeteria is also the auditorium. A question arose about sound buffering. Delmar gave thought to that issue and agreed to arrange a solution. He said the auditorium will not have sound like a professional auditorium but it will be up to standards.

An increase in buses on Breezewood Drive was another concern, although one resident commented that many buses come down the street to the current school. Davis reminded the school's staff that those are city streets and they should work with city staff on street and traffic issues.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts expressed concern over the physical condition and maintenance of the current old building which will still be in use for at least 2 1/2 years. McCave indicated that they will send the city a list of projects which are, or will be, underway at the current school.

Roberts will also be chairing a meeting with the State Highway Administration to look at Greenbelt Road issues for students who are crossing from the Berwyn Heights area.

Then the budget came up. It first appeared that the approved budget would only fund Phase 1 of the project – the building of the new school. But after further review, Fryer indicated that there are funds for the new building, the demolition of the old building and some work in the historic section that will remain.

## Wear White at Night so drivers can see you!

**Wear White at Night so drivers can see you!**



William Yang shares the story of his life's journey.

## Gay Australian Discusses His Search for Identity

by Brian St. George

The multi-purpose room at the Community Center on March 1 was the scene of a discussion surrounding identity. William Yang, gay Australian Chinese photo artist, was in Greenbelt to share the story of his life's journey. He had just performed an original work of his called *Shadows* at the University of Maryland, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. About 25 people were in attendance and the event was co-sponsored and catered by GreenBeLT Pride.

As a gay Chinese Australian, Yang, born William Young, shared with the assembled crowd the evolution of his career, his personal and social identity. When he was about five or six he was teased by an Australian boy. He went home and asked his mother, "Mom, I'm not Chinese am I?" She looked at him sternly and replied, "Yes you are." His older brother chimed in, "and you better get used to it."

Yang has a unique methodology by which he presents his art. He typically has two large screens depicting photographs he has taken and presents a monologue providing context to the work. Though he did not have his partner with him in Greenbelt, the partner had joined him at the Clarice Smith Center. He accompanies Yang on a custom-made instrument that is not a didgeridoo, so I am told.

Typically when people break out their photo albums, most people run for cover but in this case, since Yang is essentially a story teller, the story he was telling focused on identity.

Who are you? Are we simply the sons and daughters of various ethnic groups, countries or social entities? Who we believe we are often dictates how we interact in the world, Yang suggested. Therefore the search for identity can have a profound impact not only on our selves but on everyone we come into contact with.

Raised in a middle class background, Yang said his father was a shopkeeper and that at one point the family owned a tobacco farm. Because his parents wanted him to become an architect, he graduated with a degree in architecture. Although both his parents were Chinese, his mother brought him up in a "Western way." According to Yang, his mother thought

being Chinese was "a complete liability," however, he said one does not shake off thousands of years of cultural identity so easily. He indicated that Chinese are even more conservative than Westerners when it comes to the issues of homosexuality and lesbianism.

His partner, Alan, died of AIDS and was the subject of Yang's most famous photographic essays. Alan had said, "More people die of self pity than AIDS."

### Performer

Finding architecture too focused on objects and design, Yang looked for greater interaction with people, first as a playwright, then as a celebrity photographer, which led to his current stories about family and marginalized peoples in performance pieces. Nicole DeWald, Greenbelt art supervisor, who attended his performance of *Shadows*, described it as a depiction of "sub cultural groups being swamped by a dominant society."

Corita Waters, a member of GreenBeLT Pride, was in attendance and indicated that exploration of heritage was intriguing to her. Her father is African American and her mother is Caucasian. She indicated that "the exploration of identity is challenging when one doesn't know the complex history of where they came from."

One of the points of this presentation seemed to be that the search for identity can be a long but ultimately satisfying process, if one is true to one's own beliefs. Cultural and societal bombardment can send those beliefs underground, but eventually they will rise.

Yang's life is indicative of the power of being true to one's deeply held beliefs. As unique individuals we live and move within a society of other groups and individuals that at times cannot support too much deviation. In Yang's case he never "came out" to his father and although his mother "loves him unconditionally," he said, she doesn't support his gay lifestyle. He indicated that audiences in the U.S. are progressive. He has traveled throughout America and Europe, presenting *Shadows*. After Maryland he was off to Iowa and several other cities in the Midwest.

## Releaf Grant Limits Raised by County

The Prince George's County Releaf Program, implemented last October, was developed to assist communities with planting more trees and better forests.

At the time of implementation communities were eligible to receive up to \$2,500 and municipalities up to \$5,000 in grant funding. As of January 28, to further support the Livable Communities Initiative, grant funding has been increased up to \$5,000 for communities and up to \$10,000 for municipalities.

Grant funding to purchase and plant trees is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The funding is available under a 50/50 matching grant program and will be disbursed to the applicant after project completion in accordance with an approved application. In instances where volunteers plant the trees, the cost of the soil preparation, planting and maintenance equipment can be used for the applicant's 50 percent match.

Call Ross Farahi-Far, program coordinator at 301-883-5819 for more information.

**GIVE BLOOD,  
GIVE LIFE**

Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

## Museum Holds Paper Airplane Contest

On Friday, March 21 from noon to 4 p.m. the College Park Aviation Museum will hold a special event. During a visit to the museum, make a paper airplane. Supplies and patterns are free with regular museum admission and museum staff will be available for assistance. At 3 p.m. a Paper Airplane Derby will be held for distance and accuracy. Prizes will be awarded.

**Friends of Patuxent**

ANNOUNCES

## The Nineteenth Annual Patuxent Wildlife Art Show and Sale

at the William G. McGowan Academic Center  
Capitol College - Laurel, MD

March 29 - 30, 2008 • 9:00am to 4:00pm • Admission is FREE.

### Artists' Reception & Fundraiser

Friday, March 28th, 6:00 to 9:30pm  
Capitol College - Laurel, MD

\$30 per person in advance

Light hors'douvers & beverages served  
Music by AP & the Banty Roosters

*Order your tickets today!*

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or go to  
[www.friendspwrc.org](http://www.friendspwrc.org)

# W A R N I N G

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This Year Just Because They Weren't Sure Which Forms  
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**Congress has passed some very confusing tax laws! To protect yourself from filing an "incorrect" tax return this year and missing out on a ton of cash that is supposed to be YOURS, you better call a tax professional to help you get ALL the money you deserve back from the IRS!**

Hi, my name is Bob Newland and I have been a tax professional in this area for 29 years. I have an office on Route 1 near Wendy's, and an experienced "hand picked" staff. Robert C. Newland & Associates will not only prepare your tax return, we will help you keep the highest amount of money legally possible, **AND, if we prepare your return, We Will Electronically File Your Tax Return with the IRS AND the State of Maryland for FREE!**

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No other tax firm (that I know of) makes such a strong claim, but we believe that choosing Robert C. Newland & Associates to prepare your taxes should be a "risk-free no-brainer." But just in case you are still not sure, I am also throwing in a Special Bonus offer of a **\$20 discount for the first 50 new clients who respond to this message before March 22, 2008.** It's our way of saying, "Thanks for Trusting Us To Be Your Tax Professional!"

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March 22, 2008, and bring this coupon with them.



# Our Visit to Niger, West Africa

by Sandra Lange

Celebrating the New Year, my husband David and I landed in Niamey, the capital city of Niger, West Africa, on January 1. It was late afternoon, the sun was shining and, once we reached the airport terminal, we could see son Alex and daughter-in-law Brienne (Bri) on the other side of the large glass window smiling and waving. Alex and Bri have completed half of their two-year tour in the Peace Corps in Niger, the poorest country in the world. Per capita income is \$280 annually in a country of nearly 14 million people.

On our first full day in Niamey we toured the city by taxi. Masses of people line the roadway, sharing space with goats, sheep, camels and taxis that zig-zag through the sandy, rutted streets. Boys thrust an array of phone cards at our windows every time the taxi stops. Goats forage among the acres of black-and-white plastic beside the road and open fields. Short-haired sheep trot by seemingly not belonging to any one in particular. Men hold short ropes around the necks of camels laden with straw.

There are beggars with twisted legs, some in make-shift wheelchairs fashioned out of bicycle parts. Everywhere we stop young boys carrying metal bowls request coins. We are told that learning what it is like to beg is part of their religious training. One day a small boy, maybe about six or seven years old, with his waif-like little sister in tow, approaches us for money. Their sad eyes have that pleading look that comes from fear or hunger or both. Is there a parent or other adult nearby coercing these kids? Or are they truly hungry?

On our second day in Niamey, we stroll through the Grand Marche, an outdoor bazaar or African version of a shopping mall. It has dozens of narrow passages in a labyrinth of crowded stalls where merchants sell every possible commodity from African fabrics to transistor radios. Food stalls line the perimeter selling mounds of beans, potatoes, onions and oranges. Vendors and buyers haggle over prices.

Muslim men are washing their bare feet with water poured from blue-striped tea kettles in preparation for their ritual prayers offered

five times daily. On another occasion, my daughter-in-law is horrified when she and I inadvertently walk in front of a row of Muslim men who are praying in front of some shops along the street. Such an act by women is forbidden and is disrespectful to the Muslim religion. The country is 95 percent Muslim.

We purchase fabric to be made into African-style clothing. Later a tailor will come to the house, consult on designs and take our measurements. Some ready-made and used (called dead-man's) clothing is available at markets but it is more common to have dresses and shirts made by a tailor. Tailoring is a male occupation; at a local market we see rows of men sitting at treadle sewing machines plying their trade.

The Artisan Village (Le Village Artisanal de Wadata) is another destination. It comprises a training center and series of workshops where artisans sell their wares, some in a fixed-price shop, others in stalls behind the main building. It is hard to resist the reasonably-priced, intricate silver jewelry in a variety of native designs, fancy leather boxes, batik wall hangings.

Most city streets in Niamey are unpaved. Waves of sand swirl through the air as taxis weave along the uneven sandy side streets. Taxi drivers skillfully shift gears to narrowly miss the larger ditches, people, other taxis and animals in the road. I wonder how often drivers replace their shock absorbers and brakes. Cracked windshields and tattered upholstery are the norm. Sometimes the taxi driver will evict a single passenger to pick up the four of us in order to receive a larger fare. It is not unusual for two people to squeeze into the front seat and three in the back.

We are startled one morning to hear that a land mine had exploded about a mile from our residence. We were asleep when it happened. But Alex and Bri heard the explosion and said the house shook slightly. The director of a radio station was killed and his wife injured. No one claimed responsibility and Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) were advised to travel only by foot or bicycle. That evening 12 of us gathered to celebrate Alex's 40th birthday with a dinner cruise on the Niger River.

The Peace Corps has just celebrated 45 years of consecutive service in Niger. During that time, Niger has been politically stable. But now we hear about Tuareg tribesman rebelling in the northern part of the country and members of the army "accidentally" killing eight prominent Tuareg businessmen. We also learn that a female PCV has recently left the country after being slashed with a machete while walking in the streets late one night. Her female companion also left Niger, too traumatized to remain.

## Winditan

Joined now by son David Barnes, we travel to Alex and Bri's small village east of Niamey. Winditan has a mosque, a few small stores and an elementary school serving about 20 families. There is no electricity or running water. Water is drawn from wells with a motor pump, hand pump or bucket and rope. They do have cell phone coverage and receive mail at the post office in Balleymara about three miles away.

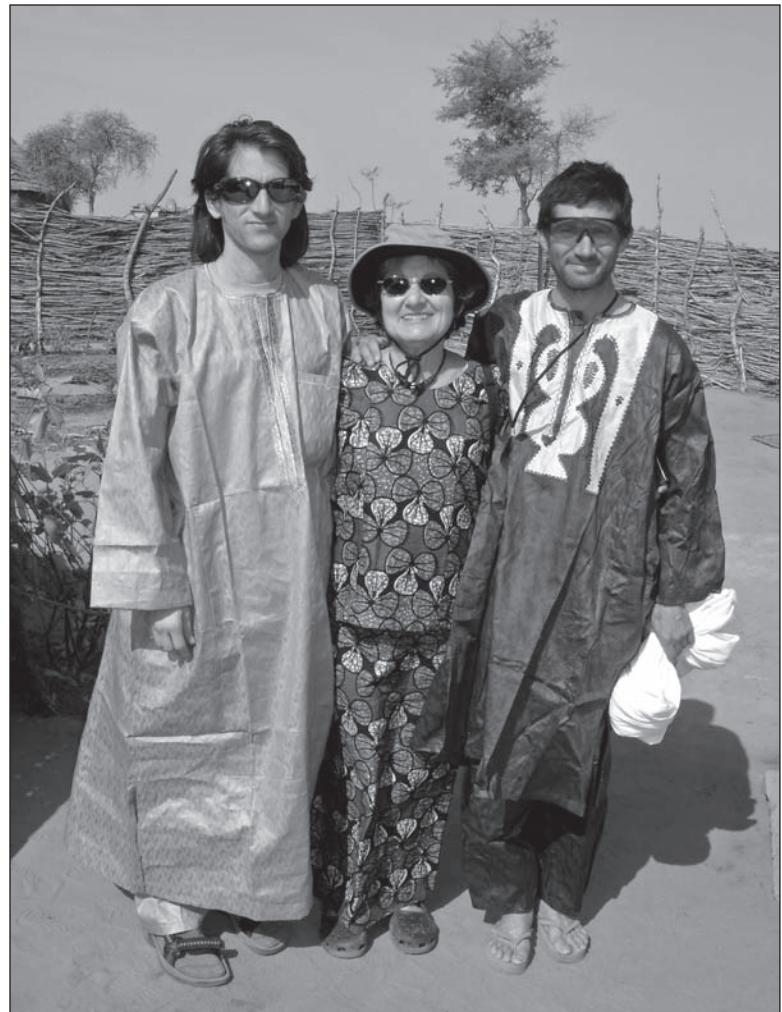
Alex and Bri have a compound (they call it a concession) of two mud huts with thatch roofs and a "hanger," a thatch structure used for shade when the weather is steamy. They have been away for over two weeks and they discover that the termites have been busy tunneling up the walls of their huts. They scrape and swat along the walls and ceilings to get rid of them. Once the debris is swept away, we get acquainted with our surroundings. The larger hut is used for sleeping and has a double bed, several metal trunks for storing clothes and bedding, tables and bookshelves. The smaller hut is the kitchen. They have a propane stove supplied by the Peace Corps, a counter and a large metal trunk that holds food safely away from insects and mice.

Alex and Bri have several small gardens inside the concession and a larger vegetable garden outside their walls. They are growing papaya, tomatoes, eggplant, sweet potatoes, carrots, corn and peppers. They have a well with a hand pump and also are connected to their neighbor's gas-operated pump for watering their garden.

Principal food crops in Niger are millet, cassava and sorghum which can be grown in arid zones. Millet is a staple and sometimes the only food available

when harvests are poor due to lack of rain. Alex's project is to work with eight families to improve their farming techniques and help them to become more self-sufficient. The families are participating in a demonstration project funded by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

The eight families were given land, a reliable source of water on that land and a drip irrigation system. The men have years of experience growing



Sandra Lange and sons David and Alex Barnes show off their new outfits.

millet and cowpeas during the rainy season but little or no experience growing vegetables. To Alex, better farming and gardening means more and better food, better nutrition and better health. Alex maintains that "better farming and gardening is as fundamental as our need for food itself, so I believe there is a great potential for my work to help this community."

Bri is working to develop and plant species of trees that will provide food and nutrients to improve the diet of the families. Her work gives her the opportunity to demonstrate ways to simultaneously care for and use the environment. Principally, she is looking for ways to build up the soil quality and improve the environment so that people are less dependent on external resources including foreign aid. She is trying to convince the women not to hull the millet grains because they are throwing away the most nutritious part.

Agriculture and livestock account for 80 percent of the jobs in Niger. Even so, the country cannot grow enough food to feed its population. It relies on grain purchases and outside aid to meet its needs. Drought and locust infestation also cause crop failures. Malnutrition is rampant. The hunger season periodically occurs in early spring. Average life expectancy is 45 years.

Many of the eight families come to the door of the concession (Alex and Bri have the only enclosed home site) and shyly shake our hands. The men sometimes shake my hand and sometimes not. It is not a Muslim custom to shake hands with women. Some bring gifts of cassava root, bananas or a bowl of beans. By 8 p.m. we are enclosed in an envelope of darkness, with thousands of stars glittering in the night sky.

The temperature drops to about 40 degrees by morning. At the back of the concession is the latrine, an area with a deep pit covered by a wooden plank. There is also a composting toilet and a bucket should one choose an alternative to squatting over a pit. Another area has the bath where a black trash can filled with water

heats up during the day. By late afternoon, the water is pleasantly warm enough for bathing in the round plastic tub. It's a good idea not to wait until the air temperature plummets. After soaping down, I dunk a cup into the black plastic container and pour the water over my body. It's primitive but efficient. Little water is wasted. Whatever is collected in the tub can be dumped on the garden.

A flashlight strapped around my head guides me around in the dark. Alex has outfitted each of their three huts with LED lights attached to computer disks and operated by switches from solar panels on the roof. They are hung in strategic places and are especially useful if a quick walk to the latrine is needed during the night.

The next day we visit the village chief and his family. For the occasion Alex, David and Dave all don long caftans while Bri and I wear our African dresses. Women in brightly colored dresses greet us. A dozen or more children gather around us, staring at our white faces and digital cameras. They laugh at their images on the small screens.

The village chief's brother shows off his prize possession, a chestnut-colored horse. He unwraps the covering of an ornate leather saddle and helps Alex to mount for a Lawrence of Arabia photo. Alex's head is wrapped in a white turban that covers his face except for his eyes. He also wears orange colored sunglasses. While on the horse, his cell phone rings.

That night, after dinner, we join the neighbors for their communal meal. The women and children eat separately from the men. Each group forms a circle, sitting cross-legged on woven mats. The women bring out a low stool for me to sit on. Several of the women are nursing their babies and breasts are exposed without any thoughts of modesty.

The women have cooked their food in clay ovens or in metal pots that hang over wood fires. The food is served from a porce-



The family poses in front of the hut in Winditan – Sandra and David Lange, Peace Corps Volunteers Brianna and Alex Barnes and David Barnes

See **NIGER TRIP**, page 12



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Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef <b>\$1 99</b> lb.	Bob Evans Roll Pork Sausage 16 oz. <b>\$1 99</b>	Bob Evans Heat & Eat Potatoes Assorted 22 oz. <b>\$2 50</b>	Bob Evans Link Pork Sausage 12 oz. <b>\$2 50</b>

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Tropicana Pure Orange Juice Assorted 64 oz. <b>\$3 00</b>	Breakstone Cottage Cheese Assorted 24 oz. <b>\$2 99</b>	Oven Roasted Turkey Breast <b>\$3 99</b> lb.	Stouffer's French Bread Pizza Assorted 10-12 oz. <b>\$2 50</b>	Hanover Gold Line Vegetables Select Varieties 8-16 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

### Seafood

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Fresh Cod Fillets <b>\$4 99</b> lb.	Frozen Snow Crab Legs <b>\$5 99</b> lb.	Oven Roasted Turkey Breast <b>\$3 99</b> lb.	Stouffer's French Bread Pizza Assorted 10-12 oz. <b>\$2 50</b>	Hanover Gold Line Vegetables Select Varieties 8-16 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Previously Frozen Basa Fillets <b>\$3 69</b> lb.	41-50 Ct. Medium Shrimp 32 oz. <b>\$1 198</b>	Domestic Swiss Cheese <b>\$5 99</b> lb.	Bear Creek Classic Soup Mixes 1-5 oz. (Makes 1 qt.) <b>\$2 99</b>	Knorr Gravy Mixes Selected Varieties 1 oz. <b>99¢</b>

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### Natural & Gourmet

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Asian Gourmet Rice Crackers Asst. 3.5 oz. <b>2/\$3 00</b>	Asian Gourmet Panko Bread Crumbs 7 oz. <b>\$1 99</b>

### Grocery Bargains

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Green Giant Corn, Peas or Green Beans Assorted 11-15 oz. <b>50¢</b>	Heinz Home Style Gravy Assorted 12 oz. <b>\$1 00</b>	Rice-A-Roni or Pasta-Roni Assorted 4-7 oz. <b>\$1 00</b>	Dole Pineapple Juice or Syrup Assorted 20 oz. <b>\$1 00</b>	Bumble Bee Chunk White Albacore Tuna 6 oz. <b>\$1 00</b>

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department,  
<http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report"  
 or [http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/weekly\\_report.pdf](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf).  
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

## Assault

March 4, 4:12 p.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive, a resident youth was arrested for second-degree assault after he was observed assaulting another juvenile. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the juvenile justice system.

## Drug Arrest

March 4, 12:05 a.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, a resident youth was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute in a school zone, possession of marijuana, theft, fleeing and eluding and several traffic offenses. Police attempted to stop a vehicle for a registration violation but the vehicle pulled away at a high rate of speed and drove to a parking lot. The driver left the vehicle and fled on foot. Police chased the youth to an apartment in the 6000 block of Springhill Drive where his mother let the officer into the residence. Located in the residence was a quantity of suspected marijuana and paraphernalia commonly used to weigh and package marijuana for sale. Investigation revealed that the tag on the vehicle had been stolen in Greenbelt. The youth was transported to Boy's Village in Cheltenham pending action by the juvenile justice system.

## Unattended Child

March 5, 7 p.m., 6900 block Hanover Parkway, a nonresident woman was arrested and charged with leaving a child unattended after she allegedly left her seven-year-old child unattended in the residence. She was released on citation pending trial.

## Disorderly Conduct

March 3, 5:45 a.m., 100 block Ridge Road, a resident man and a nonresident man were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. The nonresident man was also charged with resisting arrest. Police responded to a report of a vehicle driving onto the front yard of a residence; the men were located inside the vehicle, yelling loudly. They were arrested, at which time the nonresident man resisted attempts by police to place him in custody. He had to be subdued with the use of a Taser. Both men were transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

## Burglary

March 5, 11:55 a.m., 14 Crescent Road, it was reported that unknown person(s) forced open a basement storage bin. A television was taken.

## Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a black 2002 Chrysler Sebring 4-door, Maryland tags MPL447 from the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace; a gray 2003 Toyota 4Runner, Maryland tags 535M756 from Belway Plaza; a blue 2001 Chrysler Sebring 4-door, Illinois tags 5258485 from the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace; a blue 1993 Ford Taurus 4-door, New York tags DGF6503 from Greenway

Center; a brown 2001 Dodge Stratus 4-door, Maryland tags 5DKG80 from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive; and a black 2007 Toyota Yaris, Maryland tags 4CLT38 from the 9100 block Springhill Lane.

On March 5 a white 2001 Mitsubishi Gallant 4-door, Maryland tags 9BWA83 was stolen from the 9100 block Edmonston Road. The owner reported that he left his vehicle unlocked with the engine running and then saw a man enter the vehicle and drive away. The suspect is described as a black male in his thirties, 6'1" with a thin build, wearing dark clothing.

Three vehicles were recovered by outside departments with no arrests made.

A fourth recovery resulted from a traffic stop in the 6900 block of Greenbelt Road. When Greenbelt police stopped the vehicle the occupants exited the vehicle and fled the area on foot. Investigation revealed that the vehicle, a 1996 Chrysler Concord 4-door, had been stolen. The suspects are described as a black male 16 to 20 years of age, wearing a black jacket and blue jeans; a black male 16 to 20 years of age, wearing a black top, blue jeans and carrying a duffel-type bag and a black male 16 to 20 years of age, wearing all black clothing.

Theft from, attempted theft from, attempted theft of and vandalism to vehicles were reported in the following areas: 5900 block Greenbelt Road, 6100 and 6200 blocks Breezewood Court, 6100 and 6200 blocks Breezewood Drive (three incidents), 5800 blocks Cherrywood Lane and Terrace, 9300 block Edmonston Road (two incidents), 6200 block Springhill Court, 8100 block Lakecrest Drive, Ivy and Lastner Lanes, 7700 block Greenbelt Road and 8000 block Mandan Road (two incidents).

## Theft Arrest

March 3, Breezewood Drive and Springhill Lane, a resident man was arrested and charged with theft after police ran a routine registration check on an occupied vehicle and found that the tags had been reported as stolen.

The vehicle was stopped but the driver refused to obey repeated orders to roll the window down and speak to the officer. Upon approaching the vehicle on foot, it was discovered that the vehicle was still in gear and was drifting forward. Officers had to break out a window in order to put the vehicle in park and forcibly remove the driver. The vehicle struck another parked vehicle, resulting in minor damage. The man was released on citation pending trial.

## Vandalism

March 4, 9100 block Edmonston Road, a witness saw four Latino men vandalize a parked vehicle by breaking out the windows. They fled in a vehicle described as a black or primer colored Acura Integra.

## Scholarship Offered By Police Chiefs

Each year the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) offers a scholarship award to one full-time secondary education student enrolled in a law enforcement curriculum. Residents of Maryland between the ages of 17 and 21 may compete for this \$500 scholarship award. Selection of the recipient will be based on scholastic achievement and community/school involvement. Any Greenbelt resident meeting the eligibility requirements is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-507-6500 for an application.

Completed applications for Greenbelt residents must be returned to Chief James R. Craze for review and signature. The chief must then forward the application to the MCPA Awards Committee chairman no later than May 30 for consideration for the upcoming school year. Eligible nominations will be reviewed by the awards committee and one winner will be selected. The award notice will be mailed to the scholarship winner and a formal award presentation will be made to the recipient at a future MCPA Regional Meeting that is closest to the winner's home or school.

## Chief Craze Goes To Capitol Hill

Chief James R. Craze joined more than 100 law enforcement officials from across the country on March 4 to urge members of Congress to restore funding for critical law enforcement programs. In February the administration released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2009, which cut more than \$1.98 billion from law enforcement assistance programs including the Community Oriented Policing Services Program, the Justice Assistance Grant Program and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program.

These cuts continue a trend by both the administration and Congress of significantly slashing funding for state, tribal and local enforcement programs while at the same time demanding that these groups play a larger role in protecting the homeland. The budget cuts bring the funding for these programs to a 10-year low.

## City Notes

Animal Control staff reported three kittens were adopted this week. Staff investigated one pit bull cruelty case, removed one bird from a resident's fireplace and captured two dogs running at large.

Public Works horticulture crew transplanted 2,625 annual plugs into pots and moved them into the greenhouse until planting time in early May.

# Marines Send Home Love With Help from Post #136

by Kathleen Linkenhoker

Here, again, is a puppy rescue mission that is almost completed from Iraq. Seven mixed-breed puppies who won the hearts of Camp Pendleton Marines deployed in Iraq, are headed to San Diego, they will be reunited with their loving leathernecks in mid-March after spending some days in Greenbelt for some rest and love, thanks to Greenbelt American Legion Post 136. But don't think about adopting one. They're already spoken for by the Marines, part of a team training Iraqis to protect that country's borders.

Some Marines contacted Operation Cookie Jar personnel to enlist help in getting seven extremely cute, cuddly, needy puppies to good Marine homes and what will be lives of privilege. One of the Camp Pendleton Marines, Capt. Jamisen Fox, said that the pups' mother was a guard dog when Marines arrived at the Iraq camp and the pups were born soon afterward.

The mother had some difficulty in the role of both guardian and mom, so the Marines helped care for the pups. Life for a dog in Iraq is not what it is here. If lucky, they may get some food scraps now and then, maybe a mouse, a dead bird or a share of a goat carcass. They often get sick and die young. That is, unless they're lucky enough to be adopted by U.S. Marines like these. These Marines will be on their way home soon and they didn't want to leave the pups behind.

These guys truly needed some help getting their young "Devil Dogs" home. Making necessary arrangements on enlisted pay from a combat theater was nearly impossible.

A private security contractor

agreed to drive from Baghdad through Ramadi and Haditha over to the Syrian border, pick up the seven pups and drive them back to the Baghdad airport. The puppies were ready to load and go, so the team gassed up and returned to Baghdad via a different route. A few hours later all seven pups were safely in Baghdad without incident. The cost for this service was extremely high.

Gryphon Airlines took over the next part of the operation – getting the seven pups to the U.S. All seven pups departed Baghdad to Kuwait City, then on to Washington, D.C.

On February 28 the seven pups arrived at Dulles International Airport and cleared U.S. Customs. They spent a week resting in Greenbelt with the help of the Linkenhoker family and the Greenbelt American Legion Post 136. Those seven little guys played non-stop until it was lights out at 7:30. Then at 5:30 a.m. they were up and at 'em again. The only bad news was the loss of a pair of tennis shoes.

During this time arrangements were being made for their continued flight to the West Coast. The pups left Washington Thursday, March 6 on United Airlines at 6:15 p.m. for one last flight and arrived in San Diego at about 8:55 p.m., safe and sound.

They will be re-checked by a vet to ensure that they are healthy while they await their Marines who are due back about March 22.

The Humane Society has started a fund to help pay for transportation and care costs. Donations may be sent to Rancho Coastal Humane Society, Iraq Dog Medical Fund, 389 Requeza St., Encinitas, CA 92024.



At home with Kathy Linkenhoker, the pups do their best to hold still for the camera.

— photos by Linda Siadys



# Greenbelters Hear Discussion on Storm Water Management

by Brian St. George

On February 24 several Greenbelters along with other area residents met at the Fairland Regional Park Storm Water Management Pavilion to discuss the 2007 Maryland Storm Water Act signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley in April 2007.

Guidelines established by the Storm Water Management Act will have a direct impact on Greenbelt. Storm water management issues are currently being considered by the city and GHI, having been addressed at the Greener Greenbelt Initiative charrette and the city's envisioning process. The Anacostia watershed, of which Greenbelt is a part, is one of the most degraded, toxic watersheds in the state of Maryland.

The Anacostia watershed is 70 percent developed of which 25 percent consists of impervious surfaces. These impervious surfaces are the major factor in the degradation of the watershed, as they channel unusually large amounts of storm water carrying pollutants directly into streams. In this process the water floods the stream at an unnatural rate, causing erosion, advanced sedimentation and ecosystem degradation.

Asphalt pavement, roofs and other impervious surfaces are

the major cause of the watershed woes. Runoff results in millions of gallons of water washing into the streams, rivers and bays. Imagine having a refreshing drink of bottled Crescent Road water and one gets a tiny idea of what is infiltrating the ecosystem. This runoff affects everyone as most of the food is irrigated by rivers and aquifers also impacted by runoff.

## Challenge

One of the most significant challenges in cleaning up the watershed is storm water management. Forests, the first line of defense, as the natural filters of storm water run off, have shrunk in Prince George's County from 68 percent in 1938, to 29 percent in 2000. Fortunately, Greenbelt is blessed with Greenbelt Park, a forest preserve and a wonderful tree canopy, not to mention the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, a neighbor to the north encompassing 6,500 acres of relatively asphalt-free land.

Currently Greenbelt is faced with a major cleanup of Greenbelt Lake, a centerpiece of this community, caused by siltation from storm water runoff. Mayor Judith Davis has indicated that runoff in the form of fertilizers and animal feces is another problem for the lake. In addition the impervious surfaces of the parking lots of Roosevelt Center and city roads add to the problem.

Next time it rains check out the flows from the rear Co-op parking lot into the stream leading into the lake, enough to carry away a Chihuahua.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), tasked with enforcing the Storm Water Management Act, has said it does not have sufficient resources to provide enforcement.

Greenbelt is downstream from the megalithic Konterra, a 2,200-acre residential and commercial development located at what is to be the eastern terminus of the Intercounty Connector south of Laurel. Konterra, the site of a former sand and gravel pit, is still doing site work under a sand and gravel pit permit. That gives it more freedom in managing its storm water runoff even though it no longer operates as a sand and gravel pit.

Konterra had petitioned to run its sanitary sewer line alongside Indian Creek through Greenbelt. That petition was denied.

The MDE is currently taking suggestions from citizens on how to achieve balance in its storm water regulations. It is being told by some local jurisdictions that it lacks authority to regulate that which belongs to the county or city. The Storm Water Management Act's purpose is to have post-development hydrologic flows mimic pre-development flows.

## Mayor Urges State to Take Action

In a March 10 letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Mayor Judith Davis stated council's concerns about Indian Creek:

Ms. Shari T. Wilson, Secretary  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Ms. Wilson:

Recently it was brought to the attention of the Greenbelt City Council that there is a significant amount of sediment running into and polluting Indian Creek in Prince George's County. The sediment is originating in northeast Prince George's County at the Konterra development, though there are other developments in the vicinity of Konterra and these may be contributing as well. These areas are subject to Maryland Department of Environment regulation and are not being met.

These areas MUST be inspected immediately, enforced continuously and any problems or infractions corrected! Indian Creek and Paint Branch feed directly into the Anacostia River and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. These sediment-laden waters are negatively impacting everything downstream, including the Chesapeake Bay, adding to the difficulty in cleaning up the bay.

The Anacostia Watershed Society has documented this problem on its website, [www.anacostiaaws.org](http://www.anacostiaaws.org). The website clearly explains the problem and identifies the cause. Please visit the website, if you have not already done so. A response to this letter outlining the actions your department will be taking is requested.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Davis, Mayor

## A clean environment is everyone's business!

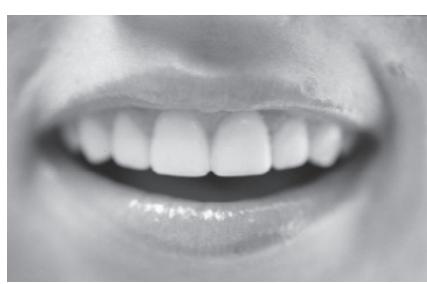
# Some People Don't Smile in Pictures . . .

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- Noticeable cavities or old dental work
- Uneven or unhealthy gums

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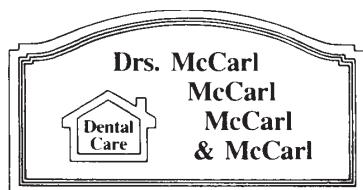


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## Local Girl Scouts Celebrate Annual World Thinking Day

by Monica Mische

February 23 was Girl Scouts World Thinking Day. Greenbelt Girl Scouts celebrated with nearly 100 girls, ages 6 to 18, gathered for this all-day and overnight event at the Greenbelt Youth and Community Centers. Instituted in 1926, World Thinking Day is a time set aside for the 10 million girl scouts across the globe to "think" about each other, growing in their understanding of cultural differences and in their appreciation of their common sisterhood.

For the Greenbelt event, each of the troops chose a country to study (among them: Iceland, Brazil, Italy, Nigeria, Germany, France, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan). The troops presented – in pictures, games, skits, and songs – what they'd learned about the country's geography and culture and of the life-challenges faced by girls their own age.

As a special bonus, international guests shared first-hand knowledge of their native lands: Rebeka Lojas from Transylvania, Elvira Kalmorzaeva from Kyrgyzstan, Sannait Blackman from Eritrea, Carolina Napp and Andres from Argentina. Their perspectives, experiences, artifacts and stories added pleasure for all the attendees.

### Workshops

The girls participated in interactive workshops in various disciplines.

Samantha Fitschen led the girls in a fast-paced, fun-filled dancing tour "Around the World." Brecken Chinn Swartz and Melissa Lindon helped the girls find "center" through relaxing and invigorating yoga workshops. Within mere minutes, Izolda Tra-

ghtenberg, international songleader, had the girls singing beautiful chants and rounds.

The World Thinking Day theme this year was water – as linked to stewardship, conservation, sanitation, climate change and health. The Beaverdam Watershed Watch Group (BWWG) proved a wonderful resource, teaching the girls about the local watershed and the importance and challenges of keeping it clean. BWWG President Susan Barnett and environmental scientist Michel Cavigelli brought in maps, an interactive watershed model and samples for water quality monitoring. Also connecting the "thinkers" to water on a personal, creative level was Greenbelt artist and Girl Scout leader Elizabeth Morisette, who showed the girls how to make felted "river bracelets" from un-spun wool. Intertwining ropes of various shades of blue signified particular rivers in the countries the girls had studied as well as the unity of all rivers as they flow together across the world.

The evening ended with a visit from the Greenbelt Astronomical Society whose members braved the cold night air to open the girls' eyes to worlds even bigger than earth with star charts, an astronomy lecture and a stunning telescopic view of Saturn.

Scouts love to eat and all enjoyed food discounted or donated by the Greenbelt Co-op, Domino's Pizza, Atlanta Bread Company, College Park Bagel Bakery, WSSC and by many troop parents who made delectable recipes for the international feast.

## Councilmember Ingrid Turner Provides County Grant Money

by Barbara Hopkins

County Councilmember Ingrid M. Turner, district 4 representative, has distributed grant funds that benefit a number of organizations and groups in Greenbelt. The total amount of money furnished exceeds \$19,000. The grants are for Fiscal Year 2008.

Local recipients of the grant money include the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt, the Advisory Committee on Education, Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau, the city's Department of Recreation Get Active Program, the Old Greenbelt Theatre, the QUEST program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) as well as the school's band and orchestra PTA subcommittee, two Girl Scout troops at Springhill Lake, the Greenbelt Cultural Arts Center, the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts, Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, Greenbelt Com-

munity Foundation and ELMO camera as well as a separate grant for the chorus at Greenbelt Elementary School. Grants ranged from \$500 for the astronomy group to \$2,000 (still pending) for the QUEST program at the high school.

Present at the regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council to participate in the ACE Educator Awards, Turner said she hoped to find some funds before the end of the year to compensate for cuts to the budget for the school resource officer at ERHS.

Mayor Judith Davis took the opportunity to thank Turner for her support, which is especially appreciated now when "times are hard," according to the mayor. Councilmember Edward Putens commended Turner for the fair way she distributes the funds throughout her represented district.

Tell us what you think and help us plan

the online version of your community newspaper.

Anyone who has access to a computer can go to this web page and complete a brief survey: <http://iat.ubalt.edu/greenbelt>

Four participants will each win a \$50 Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket gift card as a thank you for completing the survey.

Thank you. Everyone's opinion is important.

Greenbelt News Review

## WSSC Reservoirs, Rec. Areas Open

WSSC's Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge reservoirs and the recreation areas surrounding the reservoirs are now open to the public for the 2008 season.

WSSC sponsors a recreational program on the watershed which allows visitors to pay a fee to fish from portions of the reservoirs' shorelines; fishing and recreational boating on large areas of the reservoirs; mooring of personal boats; horseback riding on designated bridle trails; and hunting in specific areas. No fee is charged for using the picnic areas. A Watershed Use Permit daily fee or an annual fee to use the watershed for these recreational activities is required. An additional fee is charged to moor a boat at a watershed site.

### Boat Ramps

The following boat ramps are open for the 2008 season:

Triadelphia Reservoir, Greenbridge. The Triadelphia ramp may open later in the season when water levels rise following the completion of maintenance work to Brighton Dam.

Rocky Gorge Reservoir, Supplee Lane and Scott's Cove.

For safety and security reasons, the Brown's Bridge, Pigtail and Big Branch ramp sites will remain closed for the 2008 season.

Watershed Use Permits can be purchased at the Brighton Dam Information Center at 2 Brighton Dam Road in Brookville from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., including holidays and weekends or at the cashier's office at 14501 Sweitzer Lane in Laurel from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Brighton Dam Information Center is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

For details call the Brighton Dam facility at 301-774-9124.

## The Green Life

It turns out that fighting global warming is good for the waistline. If every American spent 30 minutes a day walking or cycling instead of driving, the citizenry would collectively cut carbon emissions by 64 million tons and shed three billion pounds of excess flab, according to Paul Higgins of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Trim even more by trading in that T-bone for tofu: livestock production produces 18 percent of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions, according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

– Sierra Club

## NIGER TRIP continued from page 8



David Barnes keeps a wary eye on the angry camel.

lain pot. Everyone dips a spoon into the pot or scoops out the contents with her fingers. When the women get near the end of the food in the last bowl, three of them vie with each other for the bowl, licking up the remaining morsels of the white porridge topped with a gummy brown sauce. They all laugh merrily at the competition to see who can eat the most.

### Balleyara Market

Sunday is market day in the nearby town of Balleyara. The Balleyara market is a human throng of activity with narrow passages leading to areas where cattle, sheep and camels are massed together for sale. The market is full of stalls where shopkeepers sell colored fabric, woven mats, leather shoes, food and dried inards used for medicine. Dead chickens are draped over the heads and shoulders of men. Children balance trays of hot golden fried corn fritters on their heads. There are rows of metal beds and other furniture for sale, all lined up along the dusty paths.

Later we have lunch with the agricultural agent. Alex and Bri greatly respect this man because he supports the education of his children, paying for private tutors when the regular teachers are not working. Only 30 percent of Nigerians are literate. Education is compulsory only to grade 6, and mostly for boys. The agricultural agent is making sure that his children will have a decent life which he believes is possible through education.

Bri says the women have prepared a meal usually served only

on special occasions. The large platter is filled with rice and macaroni topped with a spicy sauce and chicken. At the end of the meal, the host asks if we want coffee or tea. I say tea, not knowing that he has to send someone to the market to buy it. About a half hour later, the messenger returns with three tea bags.

After three days in the bush, we return to Niamey. Some of our best memories will be the friendliness of the many Nigerians we met during our 16-day visit. The villagers, though poor, each had a gift for us – sometimes a fancy leather pouch, other times food. One woman gave me an aluminum ladle. We brought gifts for them – wind-up flashlights that seemed to delight them, soccer balls and other toys. We are humbled by their generosity and their willingness to share what little they have with strangers.

Both Alex and Bri are comfortable living in their village and in their mud hut. They respect the religion and culture of their neighbors and work hard to speak the native language of Zarma. They share the rigors of farming with its periodic drought, locusts and debilitating heat. Their lives are simple yet complex. The land sustains them, yet it is also the source of their frustration, because farming in the desert will never be easy or very productive. The lives of the people they leave behind next year when their Peace Corps tour is completed will not dramatically change. The most they can hope for is small improvements over time.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center in Beltsville, MD

### IS RECRUITING MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE:

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- 4) Not taking blood pressure medications

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If you meet all the above criteria, you may be eligible for this study to evaluate the effects of protein on blood pressure. Dr. David Baer is the Principal Investigator.



Participants may be compensated up to \$1,600

For information, call the USDA at (301) 504-5454, or email [volunteers@ars.usda.gov](mailto:volunteers@ars.usda.gov), or visit our website at [www.usdanutritioncenter.us](http://www.usdanutritioncenter.us)

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DRIVERS – Dedicated freight, out & back! Weekly pay, great hometime! Healthcare avail. CDL-A OwnerOps welcome! Equal opportunity small family owned company. WJL: 800-999-5551

DRIVERS: BUS – Howard County Transit \$1,000 sign-on! Great pay/benefits! CDL-B exp. w/p endorsement. Nellie.levine@firstgroup.com, 301-497-5415 x206.

WANTED Part-time health insurance clerk wanted. Knowledge of MEDISOFT required. Duties to include entering data from EOBs, and solving insurance problems with EOBs, experience working with EOBs. Ability to contact insurance companies and clients as needed. Also available to answer staff and client questions about billing issues and EOBs. Salary commensurate with experience. Hours M, W and Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Great working environment, located in Greenbelt, Maryland. Call 301-474-2499 or email Maggie@rbitzer.com.

## LOST

ONE SMALL GOLD EARRING on lake path or in Boxwood. Reward. 301-474-5605.

## MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE – Stove, nice looking gas stove, only 3 years old, \$80/OBO. 301-213-3273

FOR SALE – Waterbed, women's suits size 14-16, evening dresses, foot massager, chair massager & more. 301-345-3983

## REAL ESTATE – RENTAL

ROOM FOR RENT – Old Greenbelt close to Center, \$600 a month includes utilities. Call 301-441-4540.

HAVE A RENTAL OR NEED ONE? Use this space to find what you are looking for.

## REAL ESTATE – SALE

OPEN HOUSE – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 2 bedroom frame, \$195,000. 51C Ridge Rd. Call 301-474-7465.

OPEN HOUSE – Sunday 1-3, 58 Crescent Road #M, \$230,000, MLS#PG6663302, this gorgeous three bedroom, end-unit, block townhome, with parking space right in front, is bright and airy, with a fabulous view of the beautifully landscaped front, side and backyards. This home boasts brand new carpet, freshly painted walls, brand new fridge, brand new countertops and newly glazed bathtub. Available immediately. Go see or buy with ANY Realtor any time. James Hsu, Long and Foster Realtor, 443-535-8000, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

OPEN HOUSE – Sat. 3/15/08, 1 - 3:30 p.m., 4-B Ridge Rd. 2 bedroom block with upstairs study, great natural vista. Sparkling newly remodeled kitchen with all new appliances. New flooring throughout – Pergo, carpeting, ceramic. Fresh, renovated bathroom. \$236,900. Can't make open house? Call for an appointment, 301-345-5943.

FOR SALE – Beautiful, bright and airy brick house in the woods! Unique 4 BR/2BA with skylights, all new casement windows, huge windowseat, large kitchen with new appliances, hardwood floors and a deck overlooking a giant, peaceful fenced backyard with lots of playspaces, a wooden playset and a garden. Big, light high-ceilinged sunroom, too! Backs to parkland and woods beyond. 123 Northway. \$442,700.

## SERVICES

COMPUTERS – Systems installation, troubleshooting, network, wireless computer design and upgrades, antivirus, anti-spam, firewall. IBM, Dell, HP, Gateway. JBS, 240-606-6020, 301-474-3946.

BARB'S PET SITTING, LLC – Reliable, experienced and professional. GHI residents get special discounts. Midday walks, weekend and holiday appointments. Call Barb, 301-356-0162. References available.

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PATTI'S PETSITTING – Let your furry, feathered, finned or scaled friend stay at home when you go away! Pet-sitting by a Professional Animal Care Specialist. All types of animals! Available for mid-day walks. Insured! Very reasonable rates! Group discounts! References available. Call Patti Brothers at 301-910-0050.

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CARPENTER SERVICES – Handyman, drywall, plaster, paint, mold removal (certified). 301-908-8670

HOUSECLEANING DONE – Weekly, biweekly, 1 time. Call Brenda, 301-277-3413; cell, 301-875-1185.

FAMILY CHILDCARE PROVIDER – Degreed, school readiness certified, Maryland credentialed. Openings, 301-552-2502.

LEAVES – Raked and taken away, 10% off for seniors. Most GHI units, \$50. Pat, 301-213-3273.

SENIOR HELP around the house – Let me assist you! Deep cleaning, organizing, cooking, laundry, ironing, basic daily chores. Reasonable rates. Call Maria, 301-474-9578.

## YARD SALES

TURN YOUR TRASH TO CASH! Spring is just around the corner. Clean out the clutter and make plans to have a yard sale. Don't forget to advertise.

## We need help on the Ad Desk!

The News Review needs an ad desk person on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. Our ad desk staff help businesses and individuals prepare ads for publication in the weekly newspaper. This is a volunteer position working with a great group of people and doing a valued job in your community.

Call Mary Lou at 301-441-2662 or Eileen at 301-513-0482.

## RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$8.10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$12.15). Deadline 10 p.m. Tuesday.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

## GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE

Wednesday, March 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Prince George's Chapter House, 6206 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville

Friday, March 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., USDA, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Beltsville

Tuesday, March 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., AI Solutions, 10001 Derekwood Lane, Lanham

Thursday, March 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Doctors Hospital/Greenbelt Lions Club, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham

Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE (448-3543) for an appointment

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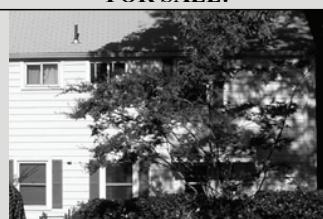
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4F Ridge Road 3 Level, Semi-Detached Masonry W/ Attic Due to unusual circumstances, this home has been sold prior to the listing date.

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Mary Kingsley is a Realtor, a Graduate of Realtor Institute, Work Force Housing Certified, and a Maryland licensed loan originator.



## Science Ctr. Extends Hours for Break

The Maryland Science Center will extend its hours of operation during area schools' spring vacation from March 17 through 30, giving families more time to explore the museum, including the recently-opened exhibit of Gunther von Hagens' "Body Worlds 2: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies." During this period the Science Center will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Body Worlds exhibit will be open until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Extended hours give visitors more time to explore interactive exhibits and activities at the museum including Newton's Alley, the Kids Room, Dinosaur Mysteries and "Your Body: The Inside Story." Audiences can also view the live-action film "U2 3D," playing at the Jon Properties IMAX Theatre through April 30 and the Body Worlds 2 exhibit, on display through September 1.

The Maryland Science Center is located at 601 Light Street in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. There is an admission fee.

For information and tickets visit the Maryland Science Center's website at <http://www.marylandsciencecenter.org> or call the 24-hour information line at 410-685-5225.

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Sunday, March 16, 7pm  
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## NAMI Sponsors Workshop March 20

The National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) will present a workshop on Thursday, March 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hanko Building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road, New Carrollton. The subject is "Advocacy and Transformation of the Mental Health System," the presenter is Mary E. Moran.

As a member of NAMI Maryland's Public Policy committee, Moran will present an update on progress in transforming the public mental health system and discuss the impact of advocacy in this process and other areas that affect the lives of persons with mental illnesses.

Directions: Go west on Rte. 450 from the Beltway (495/95). Make a right at 85th Avenue (the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel is on the right). Travel on 85th Avenue until it ends. Make a left onto Westbrook Drive. Then take the next right onto Legation Road. The road ends in a parking lot and the Beckett Field Building is on the right across from a colorful playground. All are welcome.

### Prayer of the Blessed Virgin (Never known to fail)

Oh, most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Divine Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (Make Request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray with us who have recourse to thee (Three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days. Publish it and it will be granted to you. Grateful thanks. - JJ

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## Gov. Bridge Bird Walk on Saturday

On Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 a.m. the Prince George's Audubon Society will host a half-day walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area. Participants can expect to see woodland and field birds with good chances for raptor flyovers and some waterfowl at this forested floodplain of the Patuxent River. The bird walk is for beginners and experts. Waterproof footwear is suggested.

Meet at the parking lot. The Governor Bridge Natural Area is on Governor Bridge Road in Bowie, one mile east of Md. Route 301.

Call 410-765-6482 for more information.

## Drive a Green Machine

Buy a high-efficiency car. See the U.S. Department of Energy's list of most fuel-efficient cars at <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/best-worst.shtml>.

— U.S. Green Building Council

## Moving Sale

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**Brick Townhome On Large Corner Lot**  
One of the largest yards in GH! Completely remodeled with lots of decorator touches. Large 11' x 17' Master Bedroom. Don't Miss! \$254,995  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Corner Lot**  
2 Br. townhome on corner lot w/ shed. Nearby common space & playgrounds. Separate dining area/office space. Remodeled kit. \$175,000  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Listings under contract in Old Greenbelt - 11/1/2007-3/1/2008. Source MRIS, Inc.

**Great Value - Price Reduced!**  
This 2 br towhome has fresh paint, refinished floors, new sink, countertop and stove. Fenced backyard - backs to playground. **JUST \$155,000**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Townhome With Garage**  
Just steps away from Roosevelt Center. 2 bedroom townhome with attached garage. Seller offering to pay 6 months of Coop Fee. \$212,895  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Greenbriar**  
One bedroom condominium with washer & dryer. Neutral carpet throughout. Lots of closet space and balcony with great view. \$179,000  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Townhome With Garage**  
Large 2 bedroom block townhome & garage with electric and heat. Fenced backyard opens onto large open space & playground. \$209,900  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Corner Lot**  
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
2 Br. townhome on corner lot. Updated kitchen w/ flat top stove, new sink, new counter top, new cabinets, new paint and more. Ample yard space w/ shed. Ready to go! \$175,000  
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**One Bedroom - Cheaper Than Rent**  
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
What's better than having your own place to live at a price below the competition you deserve? This 1 br townhome is a bargain at \$165,000.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Remodeled Townhome**  
Stainless steel appliances, custom cabinets & matching hutch, landscaped front & back yards & more in this 2 br. townhome. \$170,000  
\*\*\*\*\*

**2 Bedroom Townhome**  
Updated kitchen w/ flat top stove, built-in microwave, ceramic floor tile and modern cabinets; - modern bathroom, too. Roomy shed. \$175,000  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Renovated Cape Cod Home**  
Refinished hardwood floors and lots of exposed woodwork. Upstairs laundry room. Separate dining room; 3br & 2 full baths. \$329,995  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Woodlark**  
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
Large 4 br. 2.5 bath cape cod style home. 2 car garage. 1/2 block distance to Magnolia Elementary School. Priced to sell at \$312,000.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Greenbriar**  
This is the best-priced condo on the market! Lots of improvements - extra den, priced thousands below the competition! Value! \$174,900  
\*\*\*\*\*

**2 Bedroom Townhome**  
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
GH's best 2 br. 2 bath townhome! Upstairs laundry room, 2nd bath and bathroom. All updated to protect Woodlark. New \$175,000  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Shady Grove Village**  
**UNDER CONTRACT**  
Shows like a model home! 3 levels, 2 br, 2 full & 2 half baths. More than \$500,000 in updates! Upstairs laundry room, 2nd bath and bathroom. All updated to protect Woodlark. New \$175,000  
\*\*\*\*\*

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## Council Honors 2008 ACE Educator Awards



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

City Council, county and state representatives honored local educators with the 13th annual ACE Educator Awards on Monday, March 10. Back row, l. to r. – Tricia Meyers, aide to state Delegate Tawanna Gaines, County Councilmember Ingrid Turner, City Councilmember Leta Mach, Mayor Judith Davis, Councilmembers Ed Putens, Konrad Herling and Rodney Roberts. Front row, l. to r. – Awardees Virginia Walker, Barbara Baker, Bridgette Johnson, Dara Case, Patricia Perry, Peggy Branch-McCaskill, Susan O'Brien; ACE members Theresa Bugg, Alla Lake and Jon Gardner.

by Barbara Hopkins

The City of Greenbelt honored members of its school community on Monday night, March 10 when the city council meeting opened with announcement of the 2008 ACE Educator Awards. Jeff Morisette of ACE, Greenbelt's Advisory Committee on Education, announced that this was the 13th consecutive year for the awards, which recognize teachers and other staff considered to have made "exceptional contributions" to the schools serving Greenbelt's children.

### Winners

Dara Case from Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) was nominated for her creativity in using music and drama to teach across the curriculum and for her dedication to the school's music program. Peers say that she infects the students with a "positive enthusiasm for music." She will be involved with the performance by the 6th-grade chorus later this year at Disney World. In accepting the award, Case said GES is "an amazing place to be."

A member of Springhill Lake Elementary School's staff for 17 years, Virginia Walker received the ACE Educator Award for her administration of the school's Before and After School Extended Learning Program. Her tenure at the school has involved a wide range of duties including administration, curriculum, instruction, guidance and discipline. Her innovative approach and genuine concern for education are reported to be exemplary.

Bridgette Clemons Johnson received the ACE Educator Award from Magnolia Elementary School. She teaches 5th grade and started a quarterly Honor's Program to inspire students by providing motivational speakers and partnering with local businesses to provide student incentives. Johnson earned her B.S. degree in speech, hearing and education and masters' degrees in both education and business administration. She served seven years in the U. S. Air Force.

The newly established Turning Point Academy Public Charter School participated this year for the first time in the ACE Educator Awards and bestowed the award on Peggy Branch-McCaskill, who has served as

the school's secretary II for two years. Her capable ways and managerial skills have "contributed immeasurably" to the successful opening and ongoing management of the school. She is said to be an inspiration to all.

Librarian and Reading Specialist Susan O'Brien received the award from St. Hugh's School for distinguishing herself as a "diligent, creative, caring individual" who works closely with others. Her role as school librarian expanded to reading specialist after she completed a master's degree in reading. In addition to promoting reading and writing skills through individual and group instruction, O'Brien coordinates the school's National Geography Bee and activities associated with National Reading Day.

Patricia Perry of Greenbelt Middle School received the ACE Educator Award because of the depth of her caring about the students and staff of the school. She is the coordinator of the International Baccalaureate program at the school. Perry, also a mentor teacher, is highly regarded by her associates as an excellent teacher, counselor and coach. Associates say she makes the school a "better place for everyone." She has been in education for 24 years. She won the ACE Educator Award in 1995 when she was at Robert Goddard School.

Dr. Barbara Baker, the vocal music teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, won the award for the "many exceptional and positive contributions to all the students" attending the school, according to its faculty and staff. Interest in music programs at ERHS has doubled and stretched beyond available resources through Baker's efforts. She instructs five choirs and heads the music department. Under her direction, ERHS choirs have given repeated performances at the White House and the Maryland State House and some students have gone on to musical careers and won global recognition. Baker is a strong advocate for all types of music and its important role in education.

### Prizes Awarded

Each recipient received a gift bag with a shiny red and gold marble apple, an ACE T-shirt and certificates from the city, the county board of education, the

county council and the Maryland General Assembly. Award recipients are also invited to march as a group in the city's Labor Day Festival Parade in September.

County Councilmember Ingrid Turner and Tricia Myers, legislative aide to Delegate Tawanna Gaines, assisted ACE and the Greenbelt City Council in honoring the award winners. Gaines could not attend because the state legislature was in session.

### Other ACE Programs

The ACE Student Awards will be presented to selected Greenbelt students at the city council meeting on Monday, May 12. College-bound students selected from Eleanor Roosevelt High School will receive scholarship funds for which ACE always welcomes donations. To donate, contact Wendy Wexler, city liaison to ACE, in the Greenbelt CARES office at 301-345-6660.

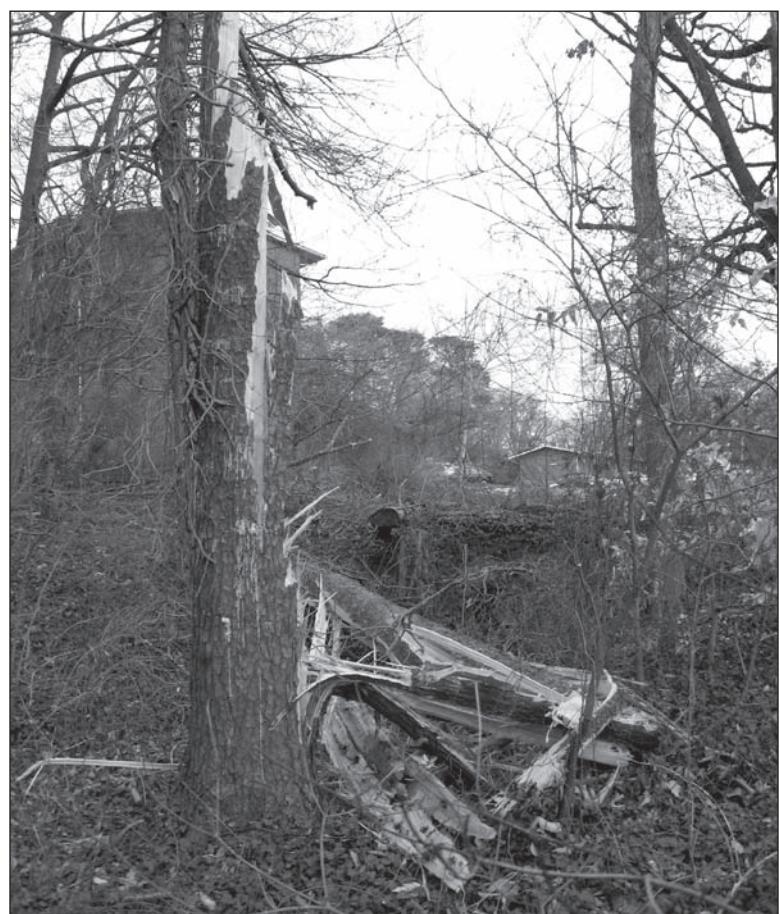
During his introduction, ACE Chair Jeff Morisette related a success story resulting from the Annual ACE Meeting for Area Principals. The principal of GES, Kim Seidel, spoke of the need for mentors for some of her students. Reginald McNeill, principal of ERHS, agreed to work with GES on this project. As a result, about 15 high school students are coming to GES weekly to spend about an hour with selected students.

## High Winds Damage Trees

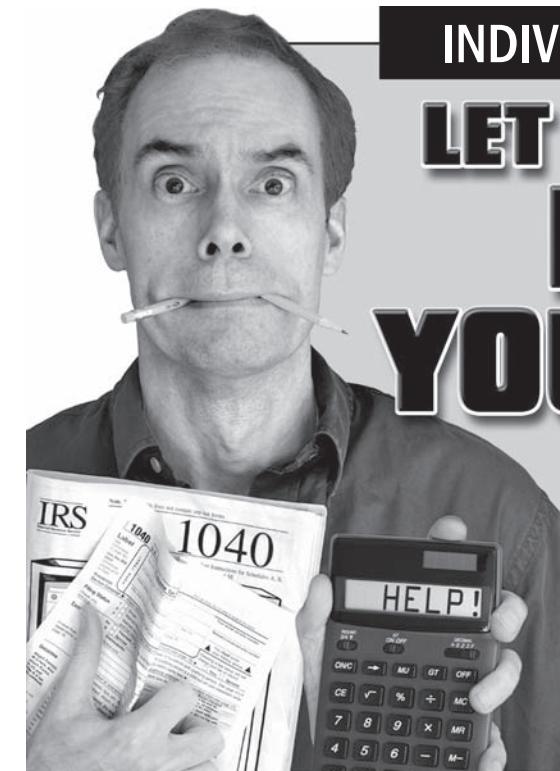


On Saturday, March 8 Reagan National Airport recorded a maximum wind gust of 60 mph. Several large trees were toppled in Greenbelt, including a pine that broke off and fell in the woods near the Aquatic Center (bottom). Another pine tree fell in GHI, destroying a shed and damaging several fences.

– photos by Helen Sydavar



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